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WASHINGTON - Congresswoman Louise Slaughter (NY-28) today released the following comment following the announcement between the United States and Canada on the renewed border agreements that aim to speed up travel and trade, improve security, and align regulatory approaches between the two countries.

"I have said many times that those of us in Western New York don't think of the bi-national Niagara region as two countries but as one community with a river running through it. Cross-border tourism and trade supports thousands of local jobs and pumps millions of dollars into our regional economy.

"While there's always been a need to balance America's national security with the free flow of people and commerce, I have long said that when it comes to Canada, we have made it too difficult for the 300,000 people who cross the border every day. So I'm delighted that attention is being paid to reducing wait time at the border with improvements to NEXUS cards and passports, as well as physical improvements to the Peace Bridge and Lewiston-Queenston Bridges.

"It is my sincere hope that the Beyond the Border Working Group (BBWG) will strongly consider the shared border management principles that I deeply support. When Secretary Clinton was a Senator, we worked closely together on this issue. It makes imminently good sense to me because we could have saved money on both sides of the border. Short of that, I think this is good news.

"Canadians are the best neighbors we could ask for. These efforts are long overdue and will benefit my friends on both sides of the border."

[For more on Slaughter's work to improve commerce across the Canadian border, click here .](#)